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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
14 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: The "Asian Conference for Relaxing
International Tensions"

The "Asian Conference for Easing International Tensions" which is to convene in New Delhi on 6 April will be a gathering of unofficial Communist-dominated delegations under the auspices of the All-India Peace Council, a front organization.

The chief item for consideration was originally scheduled to be the so-called five principles of coexistence with such other matters as colonialism and atomic weapons also occupying prominent positions on the agenda. More recently there have been indications that the Afro-Asian conference would also share the limelight. Indian officials have taken considerable pains to disassociate their government from this meeting.

A complete list of the countries from which delegations have been invited is not yet available, but fragmentary information indicates that persons from the following have been asked to attend (asterisk indicates acceptance).

USSR*
Communist China*
North Korea*
North Vietnam*
India*
Japan*
Burma*
Ceylon*

Indonesia*
Pakistan
Israel
South Korea
New Zealand
Syria
Libya

Although the New Delhi meeting is not a preliminary to the Afro-Asian conference, the Communists are expected to exploit this opportunity to set the tune of their propaganda at Bandung. The decision to hold the New Delhi meeting was taken at the Stockholm Conference for Easing International Tensions in June 1954--six months before the Bandung meeting was called. Delegations at the Afro-Asian conference are to be official representatives of their governments and, in fact, Peiping is sending

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entirely different groups to the two meetings. Moreover, representatives from such countries as Israel, South Korea, New Zealand as well as the USSR have been invited to New Delhi, but will not be represented at Bandung.

The Soviet Union has shown considerable interest in the New Delhi meeting. Moscow has not only participated in the preparatory work of the conference, but has appointed a high-powered commission to publicize it throughout the USSR.

Peiping, on the other hand, has appointed a delegation which includes only one important Communist functionary. The leader of the group is a high nonparty government official and the remainder of the group consists of "cultural" and labor leaders who are perennial delegates to "peace" conferences.

The Burmese delegation is being selected by a committee dominated by pro-Communists, but including four anti-Communist individuals who apparently have been duped.

Japan reportedly will be represented, among others, by an expert on atomic diseases and an atomic scientist.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
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